

Duxbury's Early Settlers: Job Cole

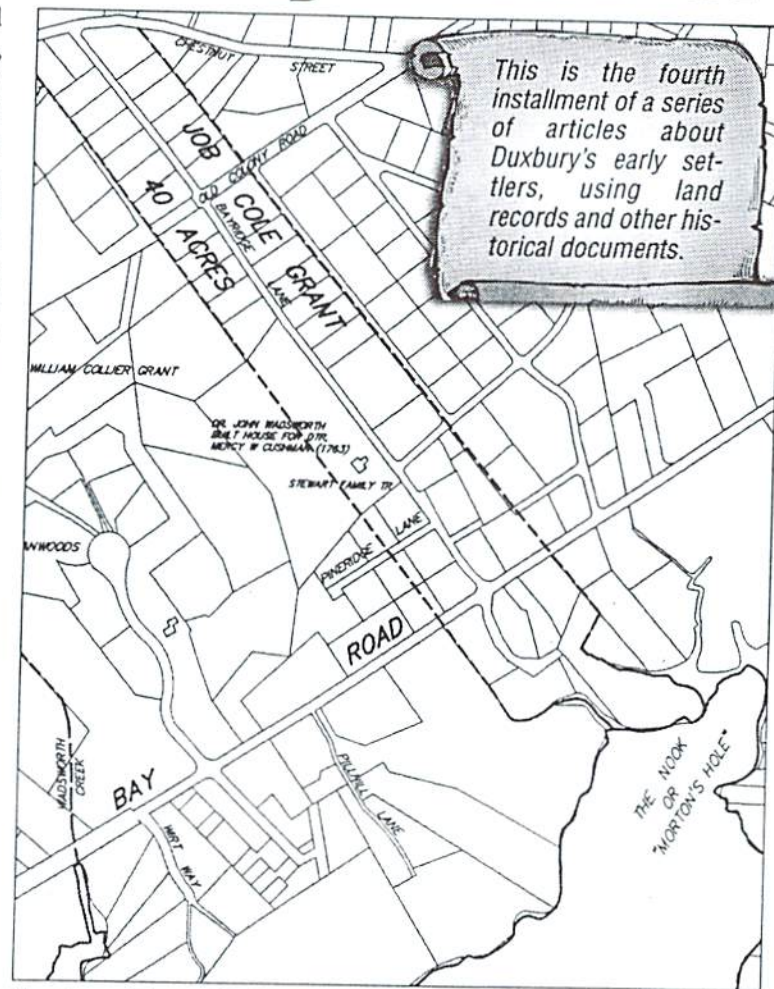
Job Cole (pronounced "Jobe," as in the Bible, not "job" as in work) was granted a "parcel of land on the Duxborrow side" on June 4, 1638. In keeping with the Plymouth Colony Second Division in which each person received 20 acres, the grant consisted of about 40 acres as he had recently married Rebecca Collier, daughter of William Collier. William Collier was Job's father-in-law, his neighbor to the immediate west, and his "boss," since he was considered "one of Mr. Collier's men."



By Lamont "Monty" Healy

Job's grant comprised the property on both sides of what is now Bayridge Lane from Chestnut Street to Morton's Hole on Kingston Bay. Whether he actually settled on this property is subject to conjecture. His name shows up in the 1639 list of freemen, and the name is crossed out in the Duxbury section and is added to the Yarmouth section. Freemen were men who were not indentured workers or servants.

If Job and Rebecca did live on the property, it was only for a short time (1638-1639). They may have lived with Mr. Collier for a period of time since they were married on May 15, 1634. Job and Rebecca moved to Eastham sometime between 1644 and 1648; Job was appointed constable in Eastham in 1648. It should be noted here that Eastham was called Nauset ("Naussit") and was comprised of the towns of



Eastham, Truro, Wellfleet and Orleans until the latter three towns split off in the 1700s. For a time Eastham was seriously considered as the colony seat.

Job and Rebecca had two children: Daniel, who was born around 1650, and Rebecca, who was born in August of 1654. Rebecca grew up to marry Robert Nickerson.

There is an entry at the Plymouth Court in June of 1672: "Daniel Cole, son of Job Cole, for cursing, fined 10s (shillings)." There were several Daniel Coles in Eastham, including this son of Job and his cousin, the son of Daniel, brother of Job. Both Daniels had wives named Mercy, one

identified as Mercy Freeman, daughter of Samuel, and the other as Mercy Fuller, daughter of Samuel. Which Mercy married which Daniel remains to be proved – a genealogist's nightmare!

Job held onto his property in Duxbury until August 13, 1651, when he sold it to Christopher Wadsworth. Christopher, the progenitor of the Wadsworth name in Duxbury, often signed his name as "X"opher. We believe this was out of reverence for the "Christ" part of his name and symbolic of the cross.

When Job sold his property to Christopher Wadsworth in 1651 it was described as "a house and land lying against

Morton's Hole with meadow and fencing." Christopher who died in 1677, left the property to his son Deacon John Wadsworth.

Deacon John died on May 15, 1700 and left "to eldest son, John, tract of land my father purchased of Job Cole." This son, another John, and also a deacon leads to some confusion in the Wadsworth genealogy. Both Deacon Johns were "coasters" who would sail from their property (on Wadsworth Creek) with produce and cord wood to Boston markets, a venture that proved to be quite successful. When the second Deacon John died on May 3, 1750 the surviving children deeded the property to the eldest son Dr. John Wadsworth.

Dr. John married Mary Alden in 1734 and they had four children: Mercy (1736), John (1739), Salumith (1742) and Sarah (1744). Their son John went to Harvard, became a professor and was, to be kind, considered eccentric. He was a Tory to his dying day and died unmarried in 1777. Salumith married Ezra Weston (the wealthiest man in town) in 1770, and Sarah married John Neal in 1774.

Dr. John built a house for his eldest daughter Mercy in 1763 when she married Joshua Cushman. It would seem that Dr. John lived in his own house until around 1774 and then moved in with Mercy and her husband. He deeded half of the property to his son-in-law in 1774 and the other half in 1797. Sometime in this period the property became 35 acres. Possibly Dr. John sold the part of the property that

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was his former homestead. He died on March 26, 1799 at the age of 92.

Joshua Cushman deeded the property to his and Mercy's surviving two sons Ezra and Charlemain (two sons died early and two daughters survived). Ezra married Sarah Bradford, daughter of Seth, in November of 1798. Charlemain moved to Portland, Maine, so Ezra and Sarah (Bradford) Cushman were the next owners of the property.

The Cushmans had two sons, John Wadsworth Cushman and Julius Bradford Cushman, who died in childhood. They also must have had a daughter who married a Bartlett because there were granddaughters named Bartlett mentioned in Ezra's estate. Ezra left the property to son John W. Cushman.

The next owner of the property was Sarah B. Cushman (b. 1841), one of John W. Cushman's three daughters, and her husband George F. Ryder, who acquired the property in 1866.

They had one daughter Catherine Isabella Ryder who was born in 1878. This woman had an exceptional ancestry, for not only was she a Ryder and a Cushman, but she was also a Wadsworth, an Alden and a Bradford. She inherited the property, at this time consisting of 11 acres, much of the rest of the 40 acres being sold off in harder times.

Catherine I. Ryder, who owned part of the property that contained the house built in 1763 by Dr. John Wadsworth, married Robert H. Stewart and they had two sons: Robert Bradford (b. 1913) and Vernon Wadsworth (b. 1915), a daughter Mary Allerton (b. 1917) and a daughter who died in infancy.

Husband Robert and second son Vernon were "jacks of all trades" and Vernon was about the only welder in town in the mid 1900s.

None of the Stewart children had any children themselves. Together the Stewarts formed the Stewart Family Trust and deeded the house

that Dr. John Wadsworth built for his daughter Mercy in 1763 along with the 11 acres that Catherine Isabella inherited from her parents, to the trust. The trust prohibits subdivision and additional building on the property. The building is one of the few houses in town that has not had additions and improvements, stands substantially as it did in 1763, and is ably maintained by Joseph Maher, a trustee from across the street.

As for the rest of the property it seems to have been divided into several parcels beginning in 1866 with the George F. Ryder ownership (mentioned above) then passed through the Cushings, Allens, Giffords, Goodwins, Littles, then to Frederick B. Knapp and wife Lucia B., who sold the property in the 1920s and early 1930s to John Marshall. John Marshall divided the property into smaller lots, which today are individually owned lots on Bayridge Lane.